

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Norton Spiel and Robert Dorishook  
TITLE: SEMI-AUTOMATIC PLASTIC SPIRAL BINDING  
MACHINE  
SERIAL NO.: To be assigned  
FILED: November 2, 2001  
GROUP ART UNIT: 3722  
EXAMINER: M. Henderson

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above  
entitled application, please amend the application as  
follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please change the title to the following, which  
constitutes a clean copy thereof:

--COIL SPREADER FOR SPIRAL BINDING MACHINES--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

After the title, please insert as follows:

-- This application is a continuation of application  
serial no. 09/460,887 filed December 14, 1999, now U.S.  
Patent No. 6,312,204, which application is a continuation-  
in-part of application serial no. 08/843,754 of April 21,

1997 now U.S. Patent No. 5,890,862 and application serial no. 09/100,724 of June 19, 1998, not U.S. Patent No. 6,000,296.---

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-13. Please add new Claims 14 and 15 as follows, which constitutes a clean copy thereof:

14. A coil spreader system for use in and in combination with a spiral in a spiral bound book binding machine comprising a spreader for significantly spreading apart trailing and leading ends of said spiral prior to first and last holes of a row of holes in a book to be spirally bound to compensate for said first and last holes having bridge distances from ends of said book greater than the spacing of said holes, said spreader comprising two spreader members, one of said spreader members insertable within respective coils of said spiral at respective points before the leading edge of said spiral enters a final hole and another of said spreader members insertable within respective coils of said spiral at respective points at the trailing edge of said spiral before entry into said first hole, each of spreader members comprising a base with a blade attached at an oblique angle, said blade having a surface with a curved contour with a rounded corner to spread the leading and trailing edges of said spiral without damage to the spiral.

15. The coil spreader system of claim 14 with a pair of opposing elongated jaws with alternating projections and recesses therebetween,

one of said jaws being a fixed jaw horizontally disposed along and attached to a longitudinal frame of said binding machine and the other of said jaws being a movable jaw hinged to said longitudinal frame of said binding machine so as to be movable between an open position and a closed position in close proximity to said fixed jaw for clamping pages of said book in place with holes in alignment with said recesses in preparation for accepting said spiral and wherein

said spreader members are oppositely disposed respectively on said opposing fixed and movable jaws of said comb clamp.

#### REMARKS

Applicant submits the within Preliminary Amendment, which is filed in connection with the above identified continuation application.

The Amendment amends the claims to recite that a spreader is at the leading and trailing ends of the book being bound, to compensate for the first and last holes having bridge distances from the respective ends of the book which are greater than the spacing between the holes.

The only patent cited previously by the Examiner in the prior parent patent application filed under serial number was U.S. patent no. 5,931,623 of Hastings. But what the Examiner refers to as the "spreader" in Hastings just guides the coil segments all at the same pitch.

In contrast, the spreader of the present invention spreads apart the coils of the spiral at leading and trailing holes of the book to be bound. The spreader changes the bridge distance to insert the first coil segment into the first hole.

Furthermore, Hastings does not stretch or contract the coil. Hastings can't have different distances between holes, such as the first hole being farther away from the edge than the distance between the rest of the holes.

The "spreader" 290 designated by the Examiner when referring to Figure 6 of Hastings is reality a series of curved guides for all the spirals, not a pair of separate

spreaders at the front leading and rear trailing ends of the book being bound.

The guides 290 in the Hastings do not stretch the coil as in the present invention. The guide item 290 passes through slot 110 and guides the coil.

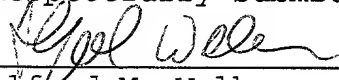
Moreover, in Hastings, there is no mention of a rear trailing edge spreader as in the present invention.

No new matter is introduced to the specification by the foregoing amendment.

Prior to an examination on the merits, please enter the foregoing preliminary amendment.

Dated: November 2 , 2001

Respectfully submitted,

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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on the date indicated below.

Date: November 2, 2001

  
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Jackie Percan  
As Fred Walker.